

Application No. 10/518,195
Paper Dated May 7, 2007
In Reply to Office Action of Feb. 6, 2007
Attorney Docket No. 0115-045717

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Figures 8 and 9 have been amended to include reference signs 15a' and 15b'. Figure 12 has been amended to replace reference number 16, depicting the wall, with new reference number 17. Replacement sheets 3/5 and 4/5, reflecting these changes, are being submitted with this paper.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

REMARKS

Figures 8, 9 and 12 have been amended to overcome the Examiner's objection to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a) and 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4).

The specification has been amended on page 6 to correct minor informalities noted by the Examiner. Page 7 of the specification has been amended to place antecedent basis for new reference number "17", which has been added to Figure 12.

Claim 11 has been amended to include the feature of a pulling arrangement for displacing the lamellae and a pivoting mechanism such that as the lamellae are being drawn out by means of the pulling arrangement, they are pivoted in a parallel relationship into a common plane by a pivoting mechanism. This amendment highlights the feature that the pulling arrangement and the pivoting mechanism work together. Claim 11 has also been amended to recite the feature that the lamellae are mounted in a pivotable manner in each case at the top and its essentially horizontal edge. Basis for these amendments can be found in the specification at page 5, lines 15-20 and at page 5, line 33-page 6, line 37.

Claims 20-22 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner to positively recite the limitations in each of these claims.

No new matter has been added.

ARGUMENTS

The present invention is directed to a device for providing shade inside a room having a plurality of lamellae oriented parallel to one another and connected, for pivoting purposes, to a pivoting mechanism which has a first end and a plurality of further ends which are each connected to a lamella such that, as the lamellae are being drawn out by a pulling arrangement, they are pivoted into a common plane by the pivoting mechanism. Accordingly, the pulling arrangement and the pivoting mechanism work together to draw out the lamellae through a series of orientations, with respect to the window and the sun, in a stepless manner.

Claims 11, 14, and 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Vecchiarelli (U.S. Patent No. 4,552,196). The Examiner alleges that Vecchiarelli teaches each and every limitation of these claims.

We respectfully traverse the Examiner's position for the following reasons. The present invention provides a device including the claimed feature of a pulling

arrangement for displacing the lamellae and a pivoting mechanism such that as the lamellae are being drawn out by means of the pulling arrangement, they are pivoted in a parallel relationship into a common plane by a pivoting mechanism. The lamellae are mounted in a pivotable manner in each case at the top and the essentially horizontal edge enabling the pulling arrangement and the pivoting mechanism to work together.

Vecchiarelli discloses a venetian blind having a plurality of lamellae, a pulling cord 23 and pivoting cords 11 and 12. The pivoting cords 11 and 12 are a so called pivoting ladder. These cords are connected to the lamellae. The lamellae are thus pivoted about a longitudinal axis that is arranged in the middle between an upper edge and a lower edge. Accordingly, the lamellae in the Vecchiarelli device fail to teach the claimed feature of lamellae which are mounted in a pivotable manner in each case at a top and essentially horizontal edge. Furthermore, although the lamellae of Vecchiarelli appear to be pivoted in a parallel relationship, this pivoting does not occur as the lamellae are being drawn out, as specifically recited in the claims. Vecchiarelli teaches that as the lamellae are drawn out by means of the pulling cord 23, the lamellae are not pivoted. The pulling cord 23 and the pivoting cords 11 and 12 are independent mechanisms and do not work together. The lamellae are either pivoted by the help of the pivoting cords 11 and 12 or are pulled with the help of the pulling cord 23. As discussed in the specification of the present invention at page 6, lines 29+, between the orientation according to figure 8 and that according to figure 10, all intermediate positions can be achieved in a stepless manner, i.e., pivoting occurs to achieve a desired orientation by simply drawing out the lamellae.

Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 11, 14 and 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Vecchiarelli be withdrawn as Vecchiarelli fails to teach each and every limitation of the claims.

Claims 12, 13, 15 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vecchiarelli in view of Marocco (U.S. Patent No. 5,595,231). The Examiner alleges that Marocco shows a pivoting mechanism produced from tapes which are mounted to the lamellae in the manner claimed in the present invention.

We respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection for the following reasons. Marocco discloses a shutter, which is similar to the blind as shown in Vecchiarelli. The lamellae or blades 14 are pulled with the help of a cord 18. Blade suspension means 16 are operated in order to tilt the blades. The cords 18 and the suspension means 16 are

independent means. Accordingly, the lamellae or blades 14 are either pivoted or moved in horizontal directions. Marocco fails to teach a pulling arrangement for both drawing out the lamellae and pivoting the lamellae as specifically recited in the claims.

Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 12, 13, 15 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vecchiarelli in view of Marocco be withdrawn as the combination of these references fails to render these claims obvious.

Claims 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vecchiarelli in view of Anderle (U.S. Patent No. 3,646,986). Anderle is cited merely to teach blinds having lamellae of different lengths. In view of the arguments set forth above, it is believed that Anderle fails to add any additional teachings which would overcome the deficiencies of Vecchiarelli. This rejection fails to address the specific feature of claim 11 of a pulling arrangement for displacing the lamellae and a pivoting mechanism such that as the lamellae are being drawn out by means of the pulling arrangement, they are pivoted in a parallel relationship into a common plane by a pivoting mechanism. This rejection also fails to address the specific feature of claim 11 that the lamellae are mounted in a pivotable manner in each case at the top and its essentially horizontal edge.

Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn as the combination of Vecchiarelli with Anderle fails to render these claims obvious.

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CONCLUSION

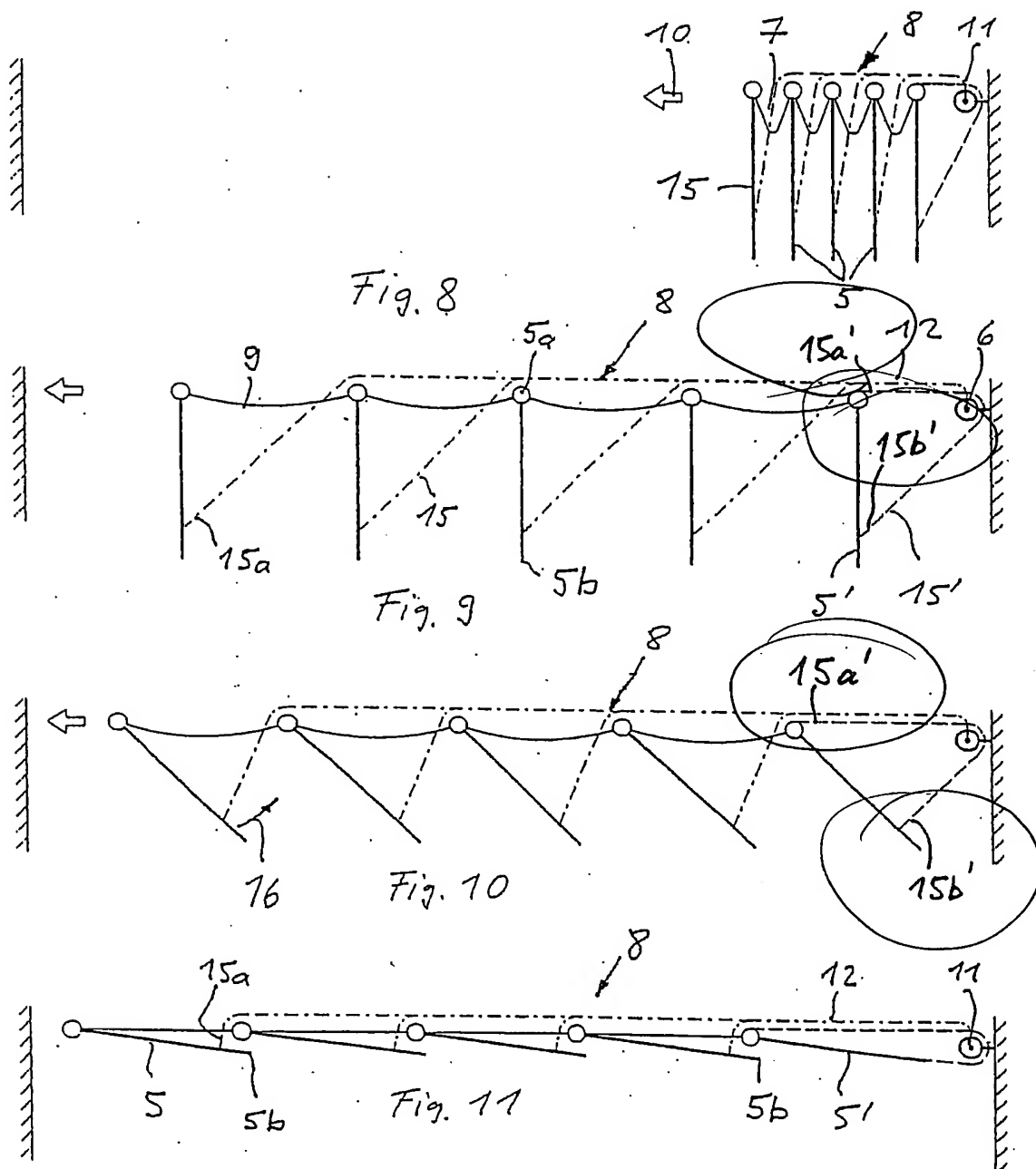
Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of pending claims 11-22 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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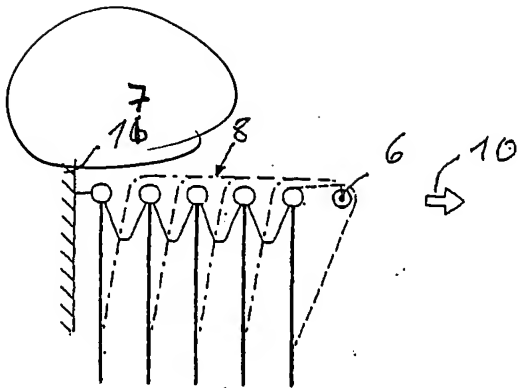


Fig. 12

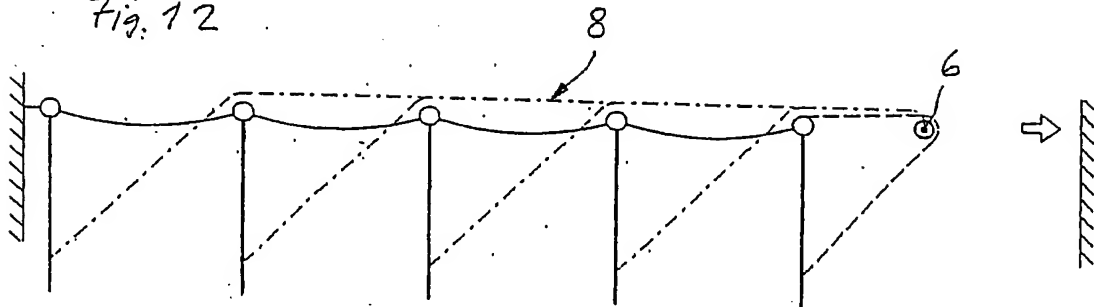


Fig. 13

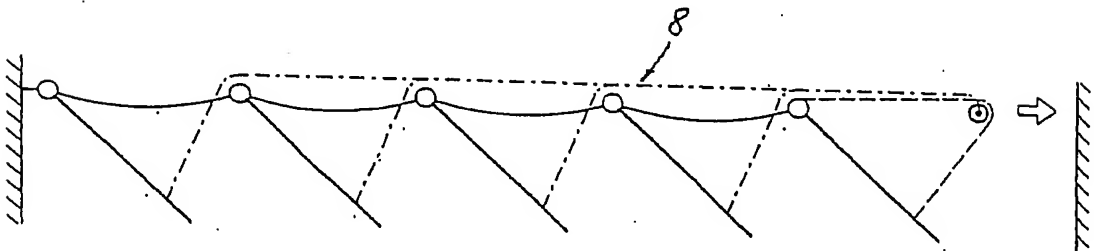


Fig. 14

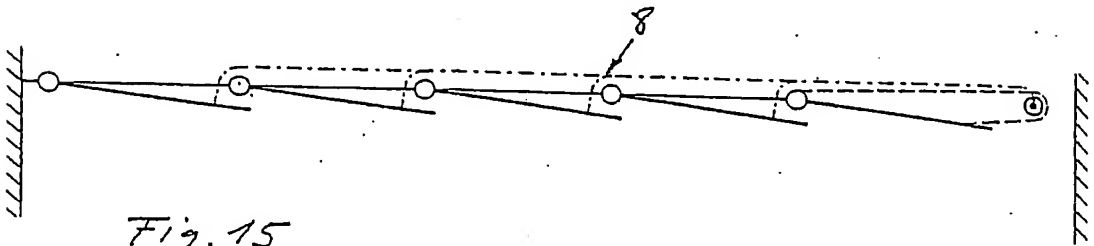


Fig. 15